

Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

DDMHS, Weeks Building, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-1601 (802-241-2638)

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani and Janet Bramley

DATE: May 21, 2003

RE: Autism and Other Pervasive Developmental Disorders:
MH and DS Caseload, 1997 - 2002

The PIP on this topic that was originally distributed on April 11, 2001 included an undercount of the number of the number of clients with Autism/PDD served by DDMHS programs. This undercount was the result of excluding one diagnostic code from computer programs that selected cases for the analysis. The following narrative and the table and graph that follow include corrected numbers.

Doreen Chambers (Adult Mental Health Division) recently requested information about the size of the statewide DDMHS caseload with a diagnosis of Autism or other Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDD). The attached graphs and table present information on the number of youth and adults with these diagnoses who were served by DDMHS designated agencies and specialized services agencies during each fiscal year from 1997 through 2002.

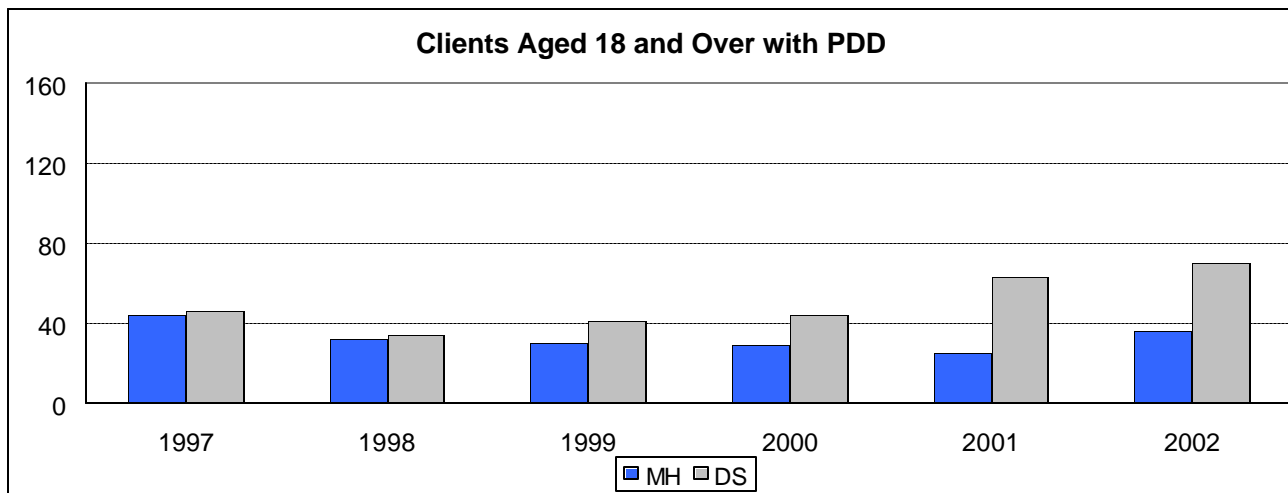
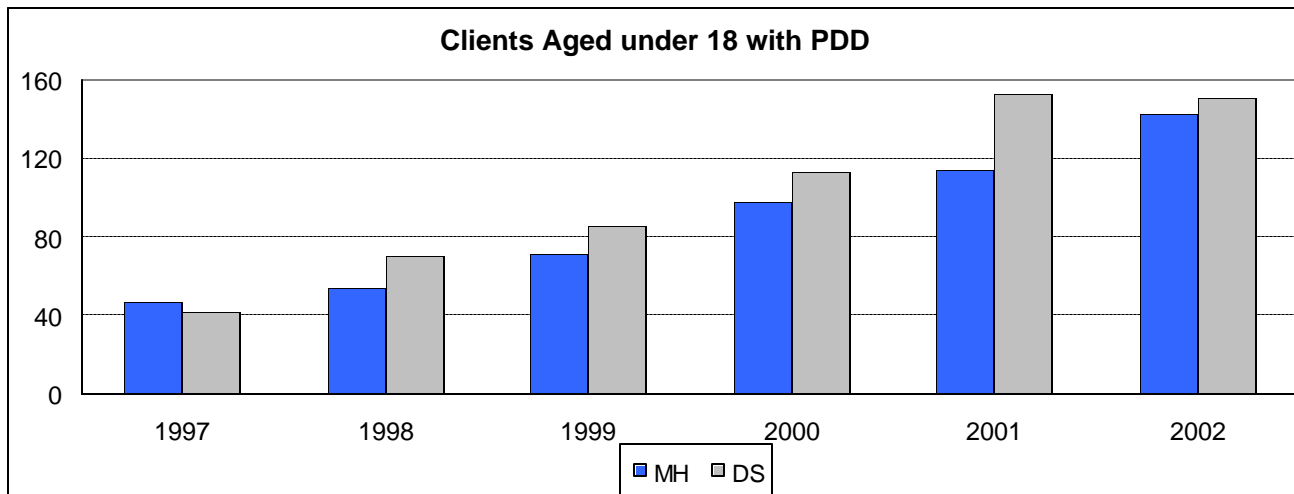
As you will see, the number of youth with autism and other PDDs, who were served increased more than threefold during the study period (from 87 in 1997 to 292 in 2002). For most of this period, developmental services (DS) programs served more youth with autism and other PDDs than mental health (MH) programs, although the difference between caseloads decreased substantially in 2002.

The number of adults with autism and other PDDs, who were served by MH programs decreased in small increments from 1997 through 2001, but increased somewhat in 2002. The DS adult caseload was similar in size to the MH adult caseload during the first two years of the study period, but was substantially larger than the MH adult caseload by the end of the study period.

The numbers reported here are based on primary and secondary diagnoses on Axis I and Axis II of DSM IV as reported to DDMHS by community agencies.

We will appreciate your comments on these findings, your ideas about sources of the observed differences, and your suggestions for further analysis. As always, you can reach us at pip@ddmhs.state.vt.us or 802-241-2638.

Autism and Other Pervasive Developmental Disorders*
Mental Health (MH) and Developmental Services (DS) Caseload: FY1997-2002



Number of Clients with PDD Served: FY1997-2002

| Year Served | Aged Under 18 | | | Aged 18 and Over | | |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------|------------------|-------------|-------|
| | MH Programs | DS Programs | Total | MH Programs | DS Programs | Total |
| 2002 | 142 | 150 | 292 | 36 | 70 | 106 |
| 2001 | 114 | 152 | 266 | 25 | 63 | 88 |
| 2000 | 97 | 113 | 210 | 29 | 44 | 73 |
| 1999 | 71 | 85 | 156 | 30 | 41 | 71 |
| 1998 | 54 | 70 | 124 | 32 | 34 | 66 |
| 1997 | 46 | 41 | 87 | 44 | 46 | 90 |

*Pervasive Developmental Disorder includes autistic disorders, Rett's disorder, childhood disintegration disorder and pervasive developmental disorder NOS (DSM codes 29900 through 29999). Client counts are based on monthly service records submitted by the Community Mental Health Centers and Specialized Service Agencies providing community developmental and mental health services in Vermont. Clients are included if the diagnosis is primary Axis I or Axis II or secondary Axis I or Axis II.